

Migration to the Gulf Cooperation Council States

by
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Introduction

- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States are considered one of the largest regions of destination in the world.
- They host a total of 12.8 million non-nationals, representing over one-third (36%) of their population.
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the largest absolute numbers of non-nationals, while Qatar, the UAE and Kuwait are the countries with the highest numbers of non-nationals as a share of their total populations
- The GCC was founded in May 1981. It is composed of six states; Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

Map of GCC States



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- Contemporary migration to this area of the world is related to the oil. It started in the 1940s to Bahrain and Kuwait and then extended to other GCC countries ending with Oman which was a sending country.
 - Faced with a small size population, immigration was the only way to boost economic development, simply because GCC states have the capital but don't have enough labor force.

Population

Population of the GCC Countries, 1960-2005

Year	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	United Arab Emirates	GCC
1960	156	4,075	278	565	45	90	5,209
1965	191	4,793	471	642	70	144	6,311
1970	220	5,745	744	747	111	225	7,792
1975	272	7,251	1,007	917	171	530	10,148
1980	347	9,604	1,375	1,187	229	1,015	13,757
1985	413	12,880	1,720	1,527	361	1,410	18,311
1990	493	16,379	2,143	1,843	467	1,868	23,193
1995	584	18,682	1,696	2,177	526	2,435	26,100
2000	672	21,484	2,230	2,442	606	3,247	30,681
2005	727	24,573	2,687	2,567	813	4,496	35,863

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision <http://esa.un.org/migration>, Sunday, November 09, 2008; 4:05:14 AM.

International Migration

International migration in the GCC States, 1960-2005

Year	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	United Arab Emirates	GCC
1960	26,667	63,389	90,629	31,652	14,400	2,194	228,931
1965	38,357	155,823	240,584	37,471	34,091	25,981	532,307
1970	37,946	356,996	463,367	40,001	68,339	65,826	1,032,475
1975	60,092	928,830	661,749	74,904	119,182	312,400	2,157,157
1980	103,466	1,920,484	956,921	180,030	165,426	718,479	4,044,806
1985	137,052	3,401,029	1,222,211	327,293	281,907	1,007,837	6,377,329
1990	173,200	4,743,010	1,551,316	452,192	369,817	1,330,324	8,619,859
1995	218,883	4,610,708	996,082	573,451	405,915	1,715,980	8,521,019
2000	254,306	5,136,418	1,387,952	606,377	460,720	2,286,174	10,131,947
2005	295,461	6,360,730	1,668,991	627,571	636,751	3,211,749	12,801,253

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision <http://esa.un.org/migration>, Sunday, November 09, 2008; 4:05:14 AM.

Migration and the Population

International migration as a percentage of the population in the GCC States, 1960-2005

Year	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	United Arab Emirates	GCC
1960	17.1	1.6	32.6	5.6	32.0	2.4	4.4
1965	20.1	3.3	51.1	5.8	48.7	18.0	8.4
1970	17.3	6.2	62.3	5.4	61.4	29.3	13.3
1975	22.1	12.8	65.7	8.2	69.6	58.9	21.3
1980	29.8	20.0	69.6	15.2	72.2	70.8	29.4
1985	33.1	26.4	71.1	21.4	78.2	71.5	34.8
1990	35.1	29.0	72.4	24.5	79.1	71.2	37.2
1995	37.5	24.7	58.7	26.3	77.2	70.5	32.6
2000	37.8	23.9	62.2	24.8	76.0	70.4	33.0
2005	40.7	25.9	62.1	24.4	78.3	71.4	35.7

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision <http://esa.un.org/migration>, Sunday, November 09, 2008; 4:05:14 AM.

Female Migration

Female migrants as percentage of all international migrants in the GCC States, 1960-2005

Year	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	United Arab Emirates	GCC
1960	27.8	36.3	25.4	20.9	25.8	15.0	28.0
1965	29.6	35.2	30.0	20.9	25.8	15.0	29.8
1970	29.9	34.1	37.7	20.9	25.8	17.6	33.4
1975	27.5	33.0	41.1	20.9	25.8	20.7	32.7
1980	24.9	32.0	37.5	20.9	25.8	24.4	31.0
1985	26.2	31.0	40.9	20.9	25.8	28.7	31.7
1990	28.5	30.0	39.0	20.9	25.8	28.5	30.7
1995	30.9	31.0	31.0	20.9	25.8	28.2	29.5
2000	30.9	32.8	31.0	20.9	25.8	28.0	30.4
2005	30.9	30.1	31.0	20.9	25.8	27.8	29.0

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision <http://esa.un.org/migration>, Sunday, November 09, 2008; 4:05:14 AM.

Arab Migration

Arab Share in Foreign Population in the GCC States, (1975-2004)

	1975	1985	1996	2002/4
Bahrain	22	15	12	15
Kuwait	80	69	33	30
Oman	16	16	11	6
Qatar	33	33	21	19
Saudi Arabia	91	79	30	33
UAE	26	19	10	13
GCC	72	56	31	32

Source: Kapiszewski (2006)

Expatriates Communities

Major Expatriate Communities in the GCC States

(Estimates for various years, in thousands)

	Bahrain 2004	Saudi Arabia 2004	Kuwait 2008	Oman 2004	Qatar 2002	United Arab Emirates 2002
India	120	1,300	584	330	100	1,200
Pakistan	50	900	134	70	100	450
Egypt	30	900	415	30	35	140
Yemen		800				60
Bangladesh		400	247	110		100
Philippine	25	500	111		50	120
Sudan		250				30
Sri Lanka		350	91	30	35	160
Jordan*	20	260	55		50	110
Indonesia		250				
Syria		100	133			
Iran	30		53		60	40
Turkey		80				
Nepal					70	

* Numbers include Palestinian migrants to the GCC states

Nationalization Schemes

- Nationalization of jobs! Which kind of jobs?
- Nationalization schemes! Did they work?
- Why they didn't work?

Migrants' rights

- The *Kafeel* system or the sponsor
- Visa traders
- Civil rights
- Imbalanced contracts and submission
- Migrants' demonstrations and political stress
- Migration and identity

The Future of the GCC Foreign Labor Market

The demand for foreign workers in the GCC Countries in the years to come will depend on several factors:

- The number of young nationals entering the labor market,
- The effect of the nationalization of labor markets,
- The capacity of the GCC economies to generate new jobs,
- The skill level of the national labor in relation to the requirements of the job market,

The Future of the GCC Foreign Labor Market

- The willingness of the nationals to work in the private sector,
- The consequences of the decreasing oil prices and the international financial crisis, and
- The political and security setting in the region.

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by
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